

CLEAN VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 2 without a prejudice of its introduction at the later point in time.

Sub F1
C1

3. (amended) A protective covering for protecting operative dental instruments comprising

a sheet of thermoshrinkable material including

an end sheet having more or less the shape of a semi-circle having a first diameter and having an end diameter and having a short edge;

a first wing sheet having a connecting edge attached to the short edge of the end sheet;

an opposing sheet of thermoshrinkable material including

an opposing end sheet having more or less the shape of a semi-circle having the first diameter and having the opposing end diameter and having a short edge;

an opposing wing sheet having an opposing connecting edge attached to the opposing short edge of the opposing end sheet;

C1
and wherein the first sheet is disposed opposite to the opposite sheet and wherein free edges of the end sheet are joined sealingly to respective and corresponding free edges of the opposing end sheet.

4. (amended) The protective covering for protecting operative dental instruments according to claim 3 further comprising an axis defined by the wing and the opposing wing.

C2
6. (amended) A method of covering a dental instrument with a protective covering comprising the following steps:
employing a protective covering having
a tubular section with a closed end and an open end;
a first wing part attached to the open end of the tubular section;
a second wing part attached to the open end of the tubular section and disposed opposite to the first wing part;
placing a dental instrument into the protective covering;
pulling the wing parts backward toward the closed end; and
removing the dental instrument from the protective covering.
